



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Camp Calvin Is Host to Conference Officers' Orientation

Nearly thirty men and women, representing both SEC personnel and national staff, gathered at Camp Calvin, Hampton, Ga., September 10 and 11, for a concentrated period of orientation and planning.

Although the business was serious, there were light moments: a national staff person dozed through Saturday sessions because a roommate's snoring had disturbed his slumber the night before; we laughed at the record "Here Come the Rattlesnakes;" two men decided that sleeping on a mattress on the floor was preferable to commuting between a top bunk and the floor; a man found himself in the women's rest room when one of the women was there. And the secret was out as to the owner of a radio which played into the wee hours, when said owner appeared late for breakfast!

We met as a total group: to review progress of the past five years; to be refreshed on General Synod's priorities; to think through our own goals. Following the meetings of the Executive Council and the various Commissions, we tried to think together about our priorities and establish a Conference calendar.

Recommendations from Commissions included the following:

Education—A Conference-wide Laity Convocation for April 1972, dealing with the "Faith Crisis" as it affects each of us as persons: Regional Skill Events, hopefully in January and February 1972; a Work-Study Event for youth, in Israel during the summer of 1972; the continuation of Summer Camps and Conferences, looking into overtures of the Presbyterian U.S. Church as well as continued efforts with the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; sending of Commission members to the Council for Lay Life and Work Regional Meeting, October 29, 30, 31.

Church and Ministry—In addition to problems surrounding ministerial standing, privilege of call and other matters relating specifically to the clergy, the Commission recommended a stronger emphasis on church-related vocations through emphasis at Annual Youth Meeting, through key youth attending Minister's Convocation, and other means; that more attention be given to training lay and part-time pastors.

Outreach—Beginning with the matter of OCWM goals, this Commission urged a meeting of pastors of Aided Fields for the Fall of 1971; it proposed Churchmanship Institutes for the Fall of 1971 or Winter of 1972. It also

recommended Cluster Consultations, as well as “How To Workshops for Busy Pastors” for Fall 1972 and a World Ministries Seminary in June or October 1972.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors made some recommendations concerning Conference and Association staff, set up a structure for planning the Annual Meeting of the Conference in 1972, and worked on other matters relating to Conference structure.

At the “wrap-up” session the foregoing recommendations were brought together and discussed; some combinations of recommendations were proposed, such as the Skill Events and the Churchmanship Institutes.

It is hoped that the Orientation will bear much fruit in the days and months ahead!

FALLING TREE DAMAGES SE CONFERENCE CARS

Tuesday, September 7, was a calm, bright day in Atlanta. Inside the Conference office building, Bill Andes, Mrs. Carl Henry and Emilie Pitcock were going about their work, when ...

“All of a sudden there arose such a clatter,

We sprang from our desks to see what was the matter!”

Mrs. Henry’s car was almost invisible, buried beneath leaves and huge branches of a large red oak tree. Under closer investigation we found the back window completely broken out, the windshield broken in several places, and extensive body damage. The Buick, owned by the Southeast Conference and driven by Bill Andes, was virtually demolished, having been struck full force by the 22-inch-diameter tree trunk; the Conference-owned Chevrolet which Emilie Pitcock drives suffered a damaged fender and other scars.

To the casual observer the tree had appeared healthy; but after it fell, it appeared not to have had an adequate root system. A small dogwood growing up through part of it had probably contributed to its instability.

At writing, the Conference Minister is negotiating for a new car, and the two other cars are being repaired. Because the tree surgeons have not completed their job, a fair amount of clutter surrounds the parking lot. Meanwhile, we all hitch rides from whoever will transport us.

ANNOUNCING

Saturday, Oct 2, 9 A.M., North Alabama Association Meeting, Jones Chapel, Moulton, Ala.

Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8, 9, and 10, Georgia-South Carolina Association, Circular Church, Charleston, S.C.

Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8, 9, and 10, Regional Youth Mini-Conference, Camp Anderson Creek, Rogersville, Ala.

Wednesday, October 13, 10 A.M. (EDST), East Alabama Association, Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 10 A.M. (EDST), East Alabama Association, Todd Church, Shawmut, Ala.

Saturday, October 16, 10 A.M., South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association, First Church, Andalusia, Ala.

Sunday, October 17, 2:30 P.M., Central Alabama Association, Mountain Creek Union Church.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 10 A.M. (CDST), Alabama-Tennessee Association, First U.C.C. Church, Belvidere, Tenn.

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 21 and 22, Birmingham "CONFLICT SYMPOSIUM," at Sixteenth St. Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday, October 29, 30 and 31, Council for Lay Life and Work Regional Training, Camp Calvin, Ga.

NEW ADDRESS FOR AUDIO-VISUAL RENTALS

Beginning October 1, 1971, persons desiring to rent films through the U.C.C. Office for Audio-Visuals should note a change in address (Mass Media Ministries will no longer provide this service). To rent films, write or phone: OFFICE FOR AUDIO-VISUALS, U.C.C., 600 Grand Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey 07657. Telephone: Area 201: 945-7060.

With this move comes also a financial advantage. Many film rental rates have been lowered, some as much as 30%. The November issue of new MEDIA news, the new bi-monthly publication of the Office for Audio-Visuals, will carry a complete listing of films that have a lower rental rate.

(This change of address does not apply to audio-visuals normally borrowed from the Southeast Conference library.)

Birmingham 'Conflict Symposium' October 21-22

Dr. James H. Cone of Union Theological Seminary, New York, and Dr. John C. Bennett, "reformer for years in American Christianity," will lead a symposium for churchmen, October 21-22, 1971, at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

More than one thousand are expected to participate, according to its sponsors, The Alabama Council on Human Relations Committee on the Church and Human Brotherhood.

Theme of the symposium will be: *The Church and Conflict: Towards a Ministry of Liberation and Reconciliation*. Morning, afternoon, and evening sessions are planned, with formal addresses, audience-speaker dialogues, and small group workshops being featured.

Designed for ministers and lay leaders of the church to participate together, the symposium is open to all. Registration fee until October 15 is \$3.00 per person, afterwards, \$5.00. Send registration immediately to the Committee on Church and Human Brotherhood, P.O. Box 409, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

What On Earth Can We Do?

Youth Week 1971 marks a beginning, not merely a one-day or one-week splash!

God created the heavens, the earth, the creatures of the earth and the sky; He created man. What has happened to the beauty of His Creation? We detect smog in the sky, the pollution of the waters, the waste and litter which cover the once-green grass. There is also a mental “pollution,” evidenced by racism, segregation and neglect of the poor. Such conditions are the subject of *Youth Week 1971, October 31-November 7*.

A packer, composed of a poster and a plan book, has practical detailed suggestions for a One Day Workshop, Consecutive Meetings, an Environmental Fair, and Supplemental Activities. Program Development Aids include helps on affecting change, resource material, and promotion. These packets are available at \$2.25 each from the National CYO Federation, Division of Youth Activities, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 1971

World Community Day, November 5, 1971, brings together church women in thousands of communities all over the nation to emphasize responsible corporate action for justice and peace. Offerings go toward the Intercontinental Mission sponsored by Church Women United.

International Mission projects have been approved by the national Church Women United Board of Managers; they include people and activities in this country and abroad—actually on six continents.

Check your local newspaper listings for special observances of World Community Day which may be planned for your area.

Equal Opportunities for Women Urged

The Eighth General Synod called on the U.C.C. to “insist” on more opportunities for women at all levels of church life with “equal pay for equal work.”

Although the denomination has ordained women for more than 100 years, women are still unequally represented “on church boards, in church pulpits, and on staffs of the denomination’s national and judicatory structure,” the document stated.

Southeast News Subscription Plan Is Revised

Imagine receiving a few months’ copies of *Southeast News* without extra cost!

Under a plan approved by the Board of Directors, all subscriptions to the *Southeast News* will expire December 31, 1971 (the exception being a few which have been paid far in advance).

Regardless of when you last paid for your subscription, you will continue to receive copies through December 1971. Those who have renewed subscriptions between June and December of this year will continue to receive the paper through 1972. A great deal of clerical work can be saved through adopting the plan of all subscriptions expiring at once.

Also, if approved by the U.S. Post Office Department, there will be just ten issues per year. December and January will be combined into one, as will August and September. The current subscription rate of \$1.00 per year will continue.

If there are churches who are willing to pay for their pastors' and church clerks' copies, this would certainly help the Conference financial situation, too.

NEW MEDIA

"Becoming Free," a 30-minute color film, is an exciting look at places around the world where the church is helping people to become free. Through four stories and many interviews with people on the street, the question is raised, "What is the United Church of Christ?"

The film is not designed to give historical facts or dates or leaders of the church; it does not attempt to describe each level of the church's life nor each instrumentality and what it does. Other resources will perform these functions.

"Becoming Free" will enable you to understand how the U.C.C. seeks to "preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty those who are oppressed;" in Ghana through resettlement of villagers when a dam inundates their village; in Kingston, R.I., where persons come to new realizations about themselves and their relationships to other people; in Atlanta, Ga., where the Rev. Andrew J. Young speaks of the need for black people to speak for themselves; in the Tondo section of Manila, Philippine Islands, where persons who labored to build their very modest homes on a landfill, are fighting a giant glass corporation which is dumping broken glass into their neighborhood.

This film makes no attempt to give a complete understanding of the church. If we are to grow and be firmly grounded in the liberating power of the Christian faith, we must participate in developing such an understanding. *'Becoming Free'* calls for your participation, your wrestling with the question, your interaction with one another to help discover and to reinforce the truth that when the church is about the business of helping others to become free, it itself is made more free.

You may borrow this film from the Southeast Conference office for return postage only.

In Brief

Coronet magazine lists a duo of small fry misunderstandings. One Christmas caroling nursery tot was heard singing “While shepherds washed their socks by night.” Another five-year-old had mistaken the memory verse “Children, obey your parents” for “Children, oh bathe your parrots.”

IN MEMORIAM

On July 13, 1971, *John F. Westfield*, secretary of the Department of Church Development and Building, UCBHM, was fatally injured by an automobile, near the New York office of the Board for Homeland Ministries. Our sympathy goes to his widow, the children, and other members of his family.

Two days following his return home from military service, *Michael J. Richter*, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hubert Richter of Cullman, Ala., was fatally injured in a fall at Larkwood Falls. The funeral was held Wednesday, September 8.

In the recent copy of the church publication, the following tribute was paid to Mike as a “special person”:

S—Sensitive and a Soldier
P—Poet
E—Entertaining
C—Creative and Concerned
I—Interesting
A—Available
L—Lovable

Mike’s parents are active members in the Cullman church; his father is a former Moderator of the Southeast Conference.

We extend our deep sympathy to the Richter family and to Mike’s many friends.

The sympathy of their many friends goes to *Rev. and Mrs. Edward M. Brown III* of Atlanta, in the passing of his mother Monday morning, September 13, at Alexandria, Louisiana. The elder Mrs. Brown had suffered a heart attack a few days earlier and appeared to be recovering satisfactorily. Fortunately, Ed had gone to Louisiana to be with his mother, and was nearby when death came.

From Our Huntsville Pastor

Yesterday, when my wife and I looked forward to a quiet few moments on the brow of Green Mountain, we were repulsed by a guard who informed us that we were not welcome because the area was being used to monitor the ascent of a high altitude balloon which will soon arise under the jurisdiction of NASA for

some experiments which I do not really understand. As we sorrowfully left, I began to wonder just what our world would look like from such a great height. I concluded that it would appear completely beautiful and at peace, for all detail would be obscure and only the broad expanse of general geographic features would be apparent.

Often that is the trouble with the Christian Church. We become so entranced with the heights of our spiritual experiences that we tend to forget the realities of modern life. Today, I received a pamphlet from the Board for World Ministries which describes in terrible detail the plight of Pakistan refugees in India—awful beyond our wildest imagination. This is just one pointed instance of the great and abiding need for Christian service in today's world.

The Church exists, to be sure, to provide spiritual uplift; but even more it exists to provide comfort to the needy and solace to the lonely. Let us in the year ahead rededicate ourselves to total service among our fellows.

Henry W. Tuttle
United Church News

Missionaries On Furlough At Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

Word has come from the U.C.C. Stewardship Council that Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Braun and their children will be residing in Pleasant Hill, Tenn., during their current furlough from missionary service in Ghana. They have served in that country since their appointment in 1956.

Although they will both be engaged during this furlough year in programs combining work and study with Dr. Fred Munson, within the limits of their responsibilities there they will respond to invitations and opportunities in our Southeast Conference area to interpret Our Christian World Mission in general and their work in Ghana in particular, including the life of the church in Ghana.

Mailing address for the Brauns is P.O. Box 183, Pleasant Hill, Tenn. 38578.

YOUR PEW IS SHOWING!

One of our Southeast Conference pastors (who shall remain unnamed) writes to his congregation:

"As I browsed through one of the many newsletters that come to my desk from other churches, I found the following caption to be rather amusing and painfully familiar, 'Your Pew is showing.'

"This past summer more of our pews have been showing than otherwise which to me is some cause for alarm. I was reminded at the last (official board) meeting during a very informal dialogue, but very frank and helpful, that the pastor must maintain an optimistic point of view concerning the congregation he serves. I agree strongly with this bit of advice but not to the extent of 'burying one's head in the sand.'

“Vacant pews are very obvious and somewhat alarming. What is more alarming are the comments: ‘We don’t like the change of schedule’ or ‘Church starts too early,’ etc.; try to keep an optimistic point of view when members of the household of faith express such feelings.

“(Nevertheless), we anticipate the beginning of an exciting church year. ‘Will your pew be showing?’”

In Brief

Church bulletins, monthly news letters or news you may know which would be of interest to our readers is always welcomed by your Conference publication.

Highlights from Garden City, Alabama

Garden City Congregational Christian Church, U.C.C. had two wonderful weeks beginning June 14, 1971.

On the evening of June 14, we were privileged to hear Miss Hedwig B. Schaeffer, a missionary who was visiting the Southeast Conference during this time. Then on the following Wednesday, Mr. Alton Bales, a local man who had toured Palestine, brought us not only a lovely and wonderful speech, but also visible evidence of rocks from various historic cities. These rocks were mounted and framed; accompanying each was a description of the area from which it came.

For some time the church had been trying to get painters to begin redecorating the front of the house of worship, the Fellowship Hall, and to paint completely the outside of the parsonage. On Tuesday, June 15, the crew of painters descended on our church premises. Since their completion of the task two weeks later, the little white church and parsonage stand invitingly by the side of Highway 31 in the very center of Garden City.

Mayor R. C. Johnson, a member of our church, noticed that the town property bordering on the church lot had many high weeds. After trying desperately to find a workman to cut the weeds, he finally wielded the weed cutter himself.

To climax the whole: The Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, conducted a week of special service. His messages were very inspiring and well received. During his stay, he and the Rev. I. Roger Whitley, pastor, teamed together to visit in the homes of our congregation.

With these events to encourage us, we look forward to even more effective service of our Lord and Master.

Floyd M. Price

\$6500 Income Supported

As part of its goal to “make the United States a nation in which racial pluralism is viable,” Synod approved adoption of a guaranteed minimum income of \$6500 per year for a family of four, and called for increased in the minimum wage and its extension to government employees, farm workers and others not now covered.

In Brief

If you do not see news from your church in the *Southeast News*, ask yourself, “When did I last send some news?”

AMERICAN INDIAN SUNDAY

Delegates to General Synod welcomed into the U.C.C. family the new Council for American Indian Ministry and approved an American Indian Sunday all-church offering in 1972 and 1973 to be entrusted to the Council for its work.

\$o You Wonder Where Your Money Goe\$: To Heifer Project, Inc.

Although it's called the Heifer Project, this worldwide enterprise to which our UCBWM is contributing \$85,000 in 1971, distributes goats, pigs, sheep, rabbits, and chicks as well as heifers. In the past 25 years, Heifer Project, Inc., has shipped more than 40,000 food-producing animals to families in 85 countries. Those who receive the animals pass on the first offspring to others needing assistance. Thus the stigma of charity is eliminated, with the recipient gaining new knowledge and self-respect.

Heifer Project, Inc., works with others—churches, governments, and private agencies—coordinating efforts aimed at improvement of livestock and elimination of hunger. In addition to overseas operations, Heifer Project is deeply committed to United States projects—the Prentiss Institute in Mississippi, the Open Door Children's Home, Hazard, Ky., and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Buffalo, N.Y.

'Faith Crisis' Stirs Response for Youth at General Synod

Young delegates, many of them not yet 20 years old, played a major role in Synod debate and action in adopting objectives to meet the Faith Crisis, identified as one of the major issues facing the church. One hundred fifty delegates were under 30 years of age.

Older delegates detected in the proposals of the youth tendency toward a more “fundamentalist” faith.

“Out of our youth caucus is coming some good old-fashioned religion,” commented a professor of theology.

Adopted objectives emphasized “universal human liberation” and called us, “as members of the community of faith working toward a whole earth and a whole people ... to be sustained and inspired through celebration of our faith; to become committed to behavior consistent with our beliefs; to reform attitudes and relationships between white and nonwhite persons; to have corporate power used to distribute the means for economic power to people who are now denied access to those means by reason of race or color; to establish a concept of peace which transcends the absence of war and includes the free development of all nations and people.

A youth objective added that “the Christian faith is not merely social action, but a dynamic relationship with God.”

United Church Herald

Shades of Shakespeare

To pledge or not to pledge—that is the question! Whether ‘tis nobler in a man to take the Gospel free and let another foot the bill, or sign a pledge and pay toward church expenses! To give; to pay—aye, there’s the rub. To pay when on the free pew plan a man may have a sitting free and take the Gospel, too, as though he paid (and none be aught the wiser save the Finance Committee, who—most honorable of men—can keep a secret!). “To err is human, too, to buy at cheapest rate. I’ll take the Gospel so! For others do the same—a common rule! I’m wise, I’ll wait, I’ll wait, not work—I’ll pray not pay and let the other fellow foot the bills, and so I’ll get the Gospel free, you see.

from The St. John’s Dover, Ohio *Carillon*

DON’T MISS YOUR ‘LEADER’S DIGEST’

“The staff members of UNITED CHURCH HERALD have told me about their plans to include a new ‘Leader’s Digest’ in each issue of the magazine. I am convinced that the HERALD is needs as never before and that every congregation should that each officer—at least—receives the magazine regularly. We can’t have a truly United Church until our members know what the church is doing around the world. The HERALD’s new features can help make that possible.

“AMONG THE NEW FEATURES WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE HERALD ARE:

Leader’s Digest—practical help for your congregation’s officers and program chairmen.

Brief “We could try that” reports of how other congregations have successfully tackled common local problems. *Bible Study* to help laymen understand the modern meaning of the scriptures. *Fast-Reading News of the Church*—for all subscribers.

Articles to help laymen provide more adequately for the pastor's personal needs.

Inspirational articles dealing with recurring human concerns.

"Send names and addresses of your church officers, deacons, trustees, consistorymen, women's fellowship leaders, church school officers to:

Mr. Bill L. Shaw, Circulation Director

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St. Louis, Mo. 63177

YOU WILL BE BILLED AT THE SPECIAL RATE OF ONLY \$3.00 PER SUBSCRIPTION.

"Act now to begin subscriptions at once."

Robert V. Moss

NEWS FROM ELON HOME FOR CHILDREN

Although a message will be brought from Elon Home for Children at several Association meetings, further news is in order.

Elon Home, opened in 1907 by the Southern Convention of Christian Churches, is now one of the 13 child care facilities related to the United Church of Christ. With an 8-acre campus at Elon College, N.C., it has facilities for the care of boys and girls between the ages of six and 18 years in group care. For children not suited to group care, foster home placement is arranged. The Home also operates a Day Care Center for children from three years old to school age. The Home's budget is in excess of \$200,000 a year, which means a cost of approximately \$2,666 for the care of each child. Dr. W. W. Snyder is the Director.

Junior and senior boys at Elon have moved into two recently completed cottages, thus releasing space in Johnston Hall for administrative offices and supply units. Each cottage has nearly 8,000 square feet of floor space, providing complete living space for 14 children. Also nearing completion is an activities building providing 19,000 square feet of floor space for recreational and cultural activities, plus storage space and room for preparing and freezing food. These buildings were made possible by generous legacies.

Fall Plenary Scheduled In Denver

We await word on results of the September 27-30 Plenary of the Consultation on Church Union set for Denver, Colo. Basic to all the consideration is a simple yet far-reaching question: "What does God require of us now?"

Four questions growing out of the overall question are: Does modern man want to hear, and is he capable of hearing what God requires? Do the liberation movements help us hear what God requires? How has the past decade affected our hopes for union? What commitment does God require of us now?

Final details are being put into place. According to the COCU Newsletter, *In Common*, "It's safe to say the techniques for getting at the answers to those

questions will be something different from the traditional listen-to-a-lot-of-speeches pattern.”

On the invitation list are the 90 official delegates, the six accredited visitors from each denomination, 50 to 60 observer-consultants, including representatives of the Worship Commission, Christian education, and youth—and, as an additional special category, representatives of the regional study groups; also, official visitors from non-member churches, conciliar structures, and church union overseas groups.

The Church And You

We are free, we are intelligent, we know what is expected of us, if the Church expects to function. As we begin the fall program (now the hectic summer is over), the interest, the climate, is one you create or fail to create.

It is not within the scope nor the desire of the minister to assume more than a fair share of the responsibility. The children observe our priorities. What are the future chances of the Church?

Pilgrim News, Chattanooga

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This transcription was recorded on June 26 and 27, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

